

July 11, 2003

Mr. Patrick Koepele  
Tuolumne River Preservation Trust  
914 Thirteenth Street  
Modesto, California 95354

Dear Mr. Koepele:

I am writing regarding the Tuolumne River Floodway Expansion and Greenbelt Protection project concept proposal recently submitted to the State Water Resource Control Board by the Tuolumne River Trust.

The San Joaquin River Management Program, established by State Legislation AB 3603 in September 1990, provides a public forum to identify problems and solutions for wildlife, flood protection, water quality, water supply, fisheries, and recreation issues. In February 1995, SJRMP submitted to the legislature a river management plan that recommended or supported various projects or programs to address these issues.

The SJRMP Advisory Council was presented with a summary of TRT's concept proposal at its June 25<sup>th</sup> meeting in Modesto, and had an opportunity to ask clarifying questions. The written concept proposal has also been posted on the SJRMP website. It is our understanding that the project is proposing to improve flood protection by restoring the floodplain and restoring the riparian corridor by the acquisition, in fee or easement, of riparian lands. These activities are similar to projects or programs recommended in the 1995 plan and can advance water quality, wildlife, fisheries, and recreation improvements on the San Joaquin River.

Based on the June 25, 2003 presentation, the SJRMP Advisory Council has agreed that the proposed project is consistent with SJRMP's goals and adheres to the SJRMP principle that impacts resulting from the action are acceptable to other interests.

If you have any questions, please contact Paula J. Landis at (559) 230-3310.

Sincerely,

Timothy Ramirez, Chair  
San Joaquin River  
Management Program  
Advisory Council